

1.1 Ceramic building material

by Sue Pringle

Introduction

- 1.1.1 Ceramic building material (1.85 kg) was recovered from the three sites. The material included bricks and roof tiles from two periods; Roman and late medieval/early post-medieval, and a probably Roman tessera.
- 1.1.2 The recorded assemblage was recorded in accordance with the Fieldwork Event Aims (see Section 2.2) and will contribute, in particular, to an understanding of settlement status and organisation (Aims 6, 11 and 13).

Methodology

- 1.1.3 All the ceramic building material was examined for this assessment. Ceramic building material has been divided by form, and fragments counted and weighed. The presence of distinctive fabric types has been noted, but no analytical work has been done on the fabrics from the site, as this task is more appropriately carried out at the next stage, should the material merit it. Other information recorded includes the presence of combing tally or signature marks, the presence or absence of glaze, and any complete dimensions. The fired clay assemblage has been counted and weighed, and the presence of features such as original surfaces, impressions or tempering recorded. Exceptionally reduced or vitrified material has been noted.

Quantification

- 1.1.4 The total weight of ceramic building material from the sites is 1.85 kg, comprising 671 g (3 fragments) of securely identified Roman material, 0.222 kg of medieval or post-medieval rooftile (15 fragments), and 0.261 kg of post-medieval brick (1 fragment).

Table 4.1.1: *Quantification of ceramic building materials by count and weight*

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Type	Period	Early date	Late date	Comments
2006	1	13	Peg	MD; PM			Clean calcareous fabric (MoL 3201?); no glaze
2101	1	6	Tile	RO?			
2136	1	217	Imbrex	RO	43	400	
2162	1	411	Brick	RO	43	400	40-45mm thick
2264	1	19	Peg	MD; PM			Orange fabric, unglazed
2280	1	14	Peg	MD; PM			Reduced fabric with white flint incls
4007	1	43	Teg	RO	43	400	<1031>, orange fabric
4007	1	34	Curved tile	MD; PM			<1032>, orange-red sandy fabric nr Mol 3094; unglazed
4342	2	5	Tile				Flakes
4453	7	95	Peg	MD?			Mixed fabrics, 1 nr 2271; 1 with glaze or vitrified sand?
4453	3	7	Tile				Flakes
6023	1	16	Peg	MD; PM			Fabric nr MoL 3201, streaky
6023	1	1	Tile				
6032	1	6	Tile				Scrap
6044	1	12	Peg	MD; PM			Nr MoL 3201
6126	2	9	Tile	RO?			Abraded scraps, 1 Mol 2454?

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Type	Period	Early date	Late date	Comments
6126	1	1	Peg?	MD; PM			Abraded, nr MoL 3201 and 2278
6159	1	18	Peg?	MD; PM			
6248	1	5	Tile				Flake
8056	1	6	Tile				Flake
9002	1	261	Brick	PM	1450?	1700?	Red fabric nr 3046
9021	4	17	Tile	PM?			Abraded scraps of post-med brick?
9033	1	5	Tile	PM?			Abraded scrap of post-med brick?

Table 4.1.2: Pilgrims Way: Quantification of ceramic building materials by count and weight

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Type	Period	Early date	Late date	Comments
302	2	21	Peg tile	MD; PM	1150	1800	Conjoin; orange fabric, grey core, calc & sandy incls; unglazed; reused?
303	4	140	Curved tile	MD; PM	1150	1800	2 conjoin; orange calc fabrics; unglazed - reused?
303	2	25	Peg tile	MD; PM	1150	1800	Orange calcareous fabric - reused or muddy?
310	3	6	Tile				May be peg tile, as fabrics similar to the peg fabrics from this site.
368	1	48	Tile	RO?	43	400	Probably Roman, but very abraded; reused.
433	3	2	Tile				Reused small flakes (also tiny scrap glazed ceramic - ?pot).
449	3	29	Peg tile	MD; PM	1150	1800	Orange - calcareous and sandy.

Table 4.1.3: West of Boarley Farm: Quantification of ceramic building materials by count and weight

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Type	Period	Early date	Late date	Comments
1021	2	269	Curved tile	MD; PM	1150	1800	Orange fabric
1021	3	12	Tile				Orange fabric
1021	1	1	Tile				<002> orange fabric, small flake.
1030	1	42	Tile	RO	43	400	Probably Roman brick or tegula.
1030	1	1	Tile				<3> orange flake, no surfaces.
1137	1	16	Tile	RO	43	400	<47> abraded, probably Roman brick or tegula.
1162	1	17	Tess?	RO	43	400	Orange tile, no mortar or plaster present, but probably reused as tessera.

Provenance

Roman tile

White Horse Stone

- 1.1.5 Single occurrences were noted of a Roman brick, 40-45mm thick, a tegula (orange fabric) and an imbrex in three contexts. The fabrics are not distinctive, and the assemblage is too small to provide more than an indication of Roman presence on the site. There is also an abraded scrap in the fabric associated with the Eccles Roman Villa (CAT type 8; MoL type 2454).

Pilgrims Way

- 1.1.6 Only one fragment of possible Roman tile was recorded, which was too abraded to be positively identified.

West of Boarley Farm

- 1.1.7 Three fragments of tile from three contexts, comprising 22% of the assemblage, are almost certainly of Roman date. All are abraded, but two of the fragments are of brick or tegula, and the third appears to be tile reused as a tessera. They are all in orange fabrics.

Post-medieval tile

White Horse Stone

- 1.1.8 Most of the material examined, from nine contexts, is peg or plain roofing tile, although a single fragment of curved roof tile is also present. Several fabrics are present, including three that resemble those found in London, Museum of London types 2271, 3094 and 3201, none of which can be closely dated. As no securely identified glazed tile is present, the material is likely to be from the early post-medieval period.

- 1.1.9 Brick in a fabric with dates (in London) between c. 1450 and 1700 is present.

Pilgrims Way

- 1.1.10 Three contexts contain medieval and/or post-medieval roofing tile, all in similar orange, calcareous fabrics. Types present are peg or plain tile, and curved tile. No glaze was noted, and the material is likely to date from the end of the medieval or early post-medieval periods.

West of Boarley Farm

- 1.1.11 Two fragments of curved tile in an orange fabric come from one context. No glaze is present, and the tile is probably late medieval or post-medieval in date.

- 1.1.12 The tile fabrics may provide evidence of the distribution of the products of identifiable kilns.

Conservation

- 1.1.13 The condition of the material is fairly abraded, but there is no risk to its preservation.

- 1.1.14 Further analysis is unlikely to be needed on the material, so there is no reason why it should not be placed in long term storage.

- 1.1.15 There are no special requirements for long term storage, other than the use of robust packaging materials and a dry environment.
- 1.1.16 Retention/discard policy: at this stage, all the material should be retained. In the future, after the tile has been fully recorded and quantified by fabric and form, the majority can be discarded. Material to be retained includes samples of all the tile fabrics, and the fired clay which has features of interest and is likely either to be of assistance in the interpretation of funerary practices or to provide useful comparanda with similar material from other sites.

Comparative material

- 1.1.17 The tile fabrics found on the site should be compared with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and the Museum of London tile fabric type series, which could provide information on their sources and date ranges, and comparisons could be carried out with material from other Roman sites in north Kent.

Potential for further work

- 1.1.18 The assemblage has only limited potential to address the original Fieldwork Event Aims.
- 1.1.19 There are no good groups of ceramic building material, and the assemblage is very small and likely to be residual, so it is of little potential value other than to indicate some sort of occupation or use of the sites in the Roman and, probably, early post-medieval periods.
- 1.1.20 The tile fabrics provide evidence for the sources of the building materials.
- 1.1.21 Unless further evidence is produced to suggest that the material has archaeological value, it is suggested that no further work should be carried out on this assemblage.